(a) whether panchayat elections are planned to be held in Jammu and Kashmir early next year;

(b) if so, whether the preparatory arrangements have been made for holding elections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir functions under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed the Ministry that elections were held in 2002 in the Jammu and Kashmir only in respect of the lowest tier of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Elections in respect of left over panchayats and casual vacancies of Panches and Sarpanches were held in the year 2003 in the Ladakh area. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed the Ministry that they are keen to hold elections for left over/ casual vacancies at the earliest, but no specific date has been intimated.

Panchayats and Parishads

1254. SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that duly elected Village Panchayats and Zila Parishads exist in all the States and UTs;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise and District-wise and the number of Panchayats and Parishads showing respective years of constitution of each and similar details in respect of other institutions of self-Govemment *viz.,* Nagar Palikas and Nagar Mahapalikas;

(c) the details of authorities responsible for incurring expenses relating to conduct of elections for Panchayats and Zila Parishads; and

(d) the details of expenses incurred on account of elections last held for Panchayats and Parishads?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In conformity with Part IX of the Constitution, Village and District Panchayats, (and, where applicable, Intermediate Panchayats) have been

duly constituted through elections in States/Union Territories except Jharkhand and Pondicheny It may be noted that Part IX does not apply to Jammu and Kashmir and certain North East States and only conditionally t*o* the Darjeeling Hill Region. A Statement showing the number of Panchayati Raj Institutions in different States/Union Territories is enclosed (See below). District-wise information is not maintained at the Union Government level. Similarly, information about the year of constitution of each Panchayat is also not maintained at the Union Government level. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj does not concern itself with institutions of local self-Government for the Municipal areas covered in Part IX-A of the Constitution.

(c) and (d) Panchayat Raj is a State subject. Article 243K(4) of the Constitution provides that the legislature of the State may, by law,make provisions with respect to all matters relating to or in connection with elections to Panchayats. The Union Government, therefore, does not maintain the details of the authorities responsible for incurring expenditure relating to the conduct of elections to Panchayats and Zila Parishads. It also does not maintain the details of expenses incurred on account of elections.

Statement

Number of Panchayati Raj Institutions in different States/UTs as on 1.4.2004

SI. No.	Name of State/UT	Gram Panchayat	Intermediate Panchayat	District Panchayat	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21913	1095	22	23030	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1747	150	15	1912	excluding Tirap Distt.
3.	Assam	2489	203	20	2712	
4.	Bihar	8471	531	38	9040	
5.	Chhattisgarh	9139	146	16	9301	
6.	Goa	190	0	2	192	
7.	Gujarat	13819	225	25	14069	
8.	Haryana	6034	114	19	6167	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3037	75	12	3124	
10.	Jharkhand	3746	211	22	3979	
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2683	0	0	2683	
12.	Karnataka	5659	175	27	5861	
13.	Kerala	991	152	14	1157	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	22029	313	45	22387	
15.	Maharashtra	28553	349	33	28935	

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Manipur	166	0	4	170
17.	Meghalaya*	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram*	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland*	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	6234	314	30	6578
21.	Punjab	12445	140	17	12602
22.	Rajasthan	9189	237	32	9458
23.	Sikkim	159	0	4	163
24.	Tamil Nadu	12618	385	29	13032
25.	Tripura	537	23	4	564
26.	Uttar Pradesh	52028	813	71	52912
27.	Uttaranchal	7227	95	13	7335
28.	West Bengal	3360	333	18	3711
29.	A & N Islands	67	7	1	75
30.	Chandigarh	17	1	1	19
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0	1	12
32.	Daman & Diu	10	0	1	11
33.	NCT of Delhi#	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	10	0	1	11
35.	Pondicherry	98	10	0	108
	TOTAL:	234676	6097	537	241310

*Traditional Councils.

#Panchayati Raj System is yet to be revived.

Eastern Siberian pipeline

1255. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has mooted an idea of Eastern Siberian pipeline in coordination with China and Japan to get oil from far-East;

(b) whether any consultations have been held with Russia,China and Japan in this regard; and

(c) the details of the parties of India apart from GAIL, involved in the construction and transportation of oil from the proposed pipeline?